



Mayor
Rebecca W. Stinchcomb

City of Gahanna

Utility Update

City of Gahanna
200 South Hamilton Road
Gahanna, Ohio 43230-2996

November 2001

PUT YOUR SEWER ON A DIET!

We all hear a lot of talk about fat free this and fat free that these days. We know that fat clogs our arteries, but have you ever considered what happens when grease is poured down the kitchen drain into your plumbing?

Think about what grease does if left in a frying pan on the stove. It hardens. Accumulations of grease also harden in your pipes and the city's sewer lines, creating costly blockages to both homeowner's and the city's sewer system. In fact, grease is a leading cause of sewer blockages, which can cause unpleasant basement drain sewer back-ups. Tree roots invading the sewer lines is another leading cause.



Here's what you can do to prevent sewer blockages from grease:

- Keep used coffee cans or other containers to pour grease into, then dispose of the can in the trash, with the lid sealed.
- Put greasy food into the trash rather than the garbage disposal. Remember that garbage disposals do not keep grease out of the plumbing and sewer system.
- Never dump grease into a sink drain, toilet, or a floor drain. Also, don't dump grease into an outside storm drain. While storm drains don't usually lead to the sanitary sewer, they do lead to streams and rivers where grease will pollute the body of water.
- Be cautious of detergent products' claims that they "dissolve" grease. Some of these products merely allow the grease to pass down the pipes to a certain point, where it can still create a clog.
- Report sewer maintenance needs to the Division of Water and Sewerage at 471-3827. If you suspect a blockage in the sewer line, please call this number to allow early corrective action to be taken.

If you have experienced repeated water in basement problems that you believe may have been caused by grease and you live near a restaurant, please let the maintenance crews know this when they arrive so that they can investigate the source of the grease blockage in your area. Restaurants are required to provide grease traps to divert the grease from entering the sanitary sewer system. These traps must be cleaned and serviced regularly in order for them to work properly.

Remember, a fat free sewer is a clog-free sewer!

For questions, call the Division of Water and Sewerage at 471-3827.

TAKE CONTROL IN A WATER EMERGENCY!

Plumbing is not something people need to panic about.

Nothing that happens is a crisis if you can **turn the water off**.

In an emergency, the water supply coming into the house can be stopped completely by closing the main control valve. This wheel or handle valve shuts off the flow that feeds the water meter. Find the meter, usually in the basement, and the shut-off valve will be next to it, on the pipe that leads from an outside wall to the meter. To stop the flow, turn the valve clockwise.

Other useful shut-off valves are located next to or under the plumbing fixtures themselves. A local shut-off will allow repair without disrupting water flow to the entire household. Turn the valve clockwise to stop the flow of water to the toilet or faucet.

Water pipes are capable of springing leaks on their own. The water in a plumbing system is under great pressure. If the pipes are not strong, they can burst, usually in pinholes. If a leak develops, it can be stopped until the pipe can be replaced. Wrap the leaking pipe tightly with Teflon tape, which is used by plumbers. Cut a small piece of rubber sheeting, long enough to wrap around the pipe once, and secure it around the taped leak with a steel hose clamp, slipped over the rubber sheeting and screwed tightly shut. Then call a plumber. This is a temporary repair, and the pipe should be replaced as soon as possible.

Other Special Interest Items:

- ✕ As a reminder, storm water goes directly into streams and rivers and all homeowners are cautioned not to pour old motor oil, antifreeze and other hazardous chemicals down the sewer and storm drains. All such chemicals are pollutants and will cause damage down stream.
- ✕ Several Gahanna homeowners continue to rake and blow leaves and other debris into the city streets. This clogs our storm drains. Please place leaves in appropriate paper bags, and tie up branches in bundles, etc., to be picked up by the refuse contractor.

Cold Coffee



Can Save You money

Pour a little cold coffee into your toilet *tank*.

Don't flush, wait a few minutes, then look to see if any color shows up in the *bowl* of the toilet. If it does, your toilet has a silent leak from the tank to the bowl. Leaks like this can waste a lot of water and occur when the toilet is out of adjustment or the parts are worn.

Call a plumber, or purchase easy-to-install replacement parts at your local hardware store.

Locate and Mark your Main Control Valve

If you ever have to turn water off FAST, you need to know where your main control valve is located and how to use it. It also pays to know that it is working!

The valve is located next to your water meter, in your basement, closet, garage, or outside pit. Once you have located the valve, make sure you have the right one by testing it. Turn it off and check to see if all the water to faucets and fixtures is off. If your valve isn't working, call a plumber to repair or replace it. Maintenance of the valve is the owner's responsibility.

Once you've located the correct valve, tag it, paint it, or tie a ribbon around it so you can find it quickly in an emergency. Show everyone in the family where it is and what it does.

You'll be ready to **take control** in most water emergencies.